

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to consider your support for the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

I currently have broadband access (DSL) to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I am, however, very concerned that my present Receiver Set-Top boxes for both standard broadcasts and HDTV broadcasts and my two Dishes (standard and HDTV) will require replacement if the merger takes place. I ask that any legislation that you pass contain language that guarantees that consumers such as myself that have invested a great deal in the current DirecTV technology will be furnished with equal replacement equipment at no charge for the equipment or installation.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Don Bolger
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Chantilly, VA 20151